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MAY 05 2003

In re Application of : **OFFICE OF PETITIONS**
Erland Wittkotter : DECISION ON PETITION
Application No. 10/047,275 : UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)
Filed: 15 January, 2002 :
For: DATA PROCESSING APPLIANCE :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed on 20 February, 2003, to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 for the benefit of prior-filed PCT Application No. PCT/EP00/06824, filed on 17 July, 2000.

The petition is **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after 29 November, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

(1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;¹

(2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and

(3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Commissioner may require

¹Any nonprovisional application or international application designating the United States of America claiming the benefit of one or more prior-filed copending applications or international applications designating the United States of America must contain or be amended to contain a reference (amendment to the first line of the specification following the title or in an application data sheet (ADS) to each such prior-filed application, identifying it by application number (consisting of the series code and serial number) or international application number and international filing date and indicating the relationship of the applications. Cross references to other related applications may be made when appropriate. (see § 1.14).

additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The present pending application was filed on 15 January, 2002, and was copending with the above-noted, prior-filed international application, at the time of filing, for which priority is claimed. A reference to the above-noted, prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, which was filed concurrently with the present petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3).

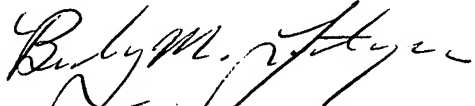
The present nonprovisional application was filed after 29 November, 2000, and the claim for priority herein is submitted after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2). Also, the reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional was submitted during the pendency of the nonprovisional application for which the benefit is sought. See 35 U.S.C. § 120. Accordingly, having found that the present petition satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120, the petition to accept an unintentionally delayed claim to benefit to prior-filed Application No. PCT/EP00/06824 is granted as of the date of filing the petition.

A review of Office PALM records indicates that the priority claim has been previously entered in Office records.

Receipt of the power of attorney and change of correspondence address filed on 4 February, 2003, is acknowledged.

The application is being forwarded to Technology Center 2100 for processing the amendment filed on 20 February, 2003, and for consideration by the examiner of the claim under 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) for the benefit of the above-noted, prior filed nonprovisional application.

Telephone inquiries related to this decision should be directed to Senior Petitions Attorney Douglas I. Wood at 703-308-6918.


Beverly M. Flanagan
Supervisory Petitions Examiner
Office of Petitions